

Summary of Changes to Draft Herring Run Park Master Plan

Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

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This document describes changes to the Draft Herring Run Master Plan in response to discussions by Advisory Board in fall 2009 and community groups in summer 2009 to clarify concepts and recommendations.

1. The format of the plan has been reorganized.
 - The Original Draft was organized by topics for park enhancement and combined many park areas under discussions of a few ideas such as natural resources or recreation.
 - The Revised Draft is organized in a more traditional style. The text begins with the history and site assessment followed by vision, overall recommendations detailed recommendations that are organized by park area: upper park (page 40), middle park (page 55) , lower park (page 66)
2. The Advisory Board revised the Visions statement to more clearly reflect the value of the stream valley park and the importance of a sustainable natural environment in defining the character of Herring Run Park. The seven statements for Vision and Sustainability are included early in the report and guide the recommendations.
3. The Original Draft only included the basic drawing for the master plan recommendations. The Revised Draft has expanded the basic map in several ways to illustrate the text.
 - Map N: Basic map shows names park areas to be improved, proposed alignment of greenway and major features in the park.
 - Map N 1-3: Basic map is broken out into enlargements for upper, middle and lower park with text details of recommendations for each improvement area.
 - Report Text for each improvement area includes image of the specific area for easier identification of location (pages 40-73)
 - Report Text includes photos to illustrate historic conditions (e.g. page 6), existing conditions and design ideas (e.g. page 86)
 - Report Text includes sketches of design options as suggested by Advisory Board such as Halls Spring Parking (page 41-44) and Chesterfield soccer (page 50) to emphasize that the implementation of the master plan will require exploring ideas at the design detail level to reach the plan's vision.
4. The Original Draft included an implementation matrix organized by vision statements. The Revised Draft implementation matrix is organized by individual projects to match the revised text.
5. The Revised Draft addresses each of the "Eight Questions" presented by the Friends of Herring Run Parks in the spring of 2009 as well as questions and ideas discussed during community meetings in the summer of 2009.

#1 – The Vision Statement & Sustainability Principles that guide the recommendations recognize the value of the park as an environmentally sensitive stream valley park. (page 26)

#2 – As guided by the vision statement, the recommendations include overall ideas for the whole park and individual site improvements that will preserve and restore the parks natural resources (enhancing woodlands, removing pavement, expanding 22 acres of woodlands for a net gain of 16 acres in the park). The Existing Studies for woodlands and Stream conditions (figure F and G after page 23) show priority for stream buffer expansion which can be seen in the recommendations on map N, Middle Park N2 and Lower Park N3 as well as the text M2/pg59, M4/pg60, M8/pg64, L1 & L2/pg67. The existing studies give a moderate priority for stream channel projects inside the park in the context of restoration needed throughout the watershed, so the report recommends supporting this work with site specific improvements for gabion removal in the upper and lower park (page 32, 72).

#3 – Recommendations for individual areas include improvements that will promote “natural resource based” recreation by adding trails to provide access to the woods and stream such as paths recommended near the smaller bridges (pg 61) and in the woods near Eastwood (page 48).

#4 – The city had fulfilled its pledge for interagency cooperation and formed the Herring Run Advisory Board (HRAB) to provide a forum for continued discussion of all projects relating to the park and stream. The City has responded to the Advisory Board comments and concerns and will continue to work with HRAB during design of the greenway and the Harford Road Bridge and underpass.

#5 – The plan includes specific recommendations for safe road crossings & park access as well as recommendations to continue to work with DOT. An overall discussion of traffic calming ideas is on page 37 and specific locations where assistance is required are identified in the individual areas such as U12/pg54 and M5/pg61.

#6 – The Herring Run Advisory Board has reviewed and approved inclusion of the Harford Road Underpass as shown on map N and page 35.

#7 – The master plan includes design recommendations to improve park maintenance as well as continuing the Advisory Board as a forum to discuss these issues as discussed on pg 74.

#8 – The master plan process was extended over a year to promote more input from community groups and individuals. The Advisory Board was formed to ensure clear communication between city agencies and communities.